

ARRANGEMENT FOR CONTROLLING CONGESTION FOR MULTIPLE HOST GROUPS
SHARING A SINGLE SIGNALING POINT CODE IN AN IP-BASED NETWORK USING
RESPECTIVE GROUP CONGESTION LEVELS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A Voice over IP network, having multiple application server processes (ASPs) and at least one signaling gateway, communicates with switched circuit network nodes using a prescribed point code. The ASPs are arranged into ASP groups, each ASP group identifying the ASPs configured for processing prescribed message signaling unit (MSU) types. The signaling gateway determines 5 a congestion level for each ASP group. Upon receiving an SS7 message specifying the prescribed point code as the destination point code and carrying a MSU, the signaling gateway selects one of the ASP groups based on identifying a matching MSU type. If the signaling gateway determines that the priority of the MSU is less than the determined congestion level for the ASP group, the signaling gateway drops the MSU and sends back a Transfer Controlled message to the originating 10 signaling node.